



TEMPORARY EROSION CONTROL AROUND THE HOME FOLLOWING A FIRE

JUTE NETTING

What is it?

This is a net made of Jute that is laid and anchored over straw or other mulch to protect the mulch from wind and water damage. It reduces soil erosion and provides a good environment for vegetative regrowth. Jute is a biodegradable material that will eventually decompose and is not a threat to the environment.

When is it used?

This practice is often used on areas that may erode near structures such as homes, roads, and bridges. It is used on small, steep, disturbed areas. Jute can also be applied alone (without mulch) as an alternative to straw or wood mulches on flat sites for dust control and seed germination enhancement. It should not be used alone where runoff quantities are expected to be high. The use of jute is not appropriate in all situations. Examples of when jute netting may not be appropriate include:

- Steep slopes with sandy soils
- Steep slopes with many rocks on the surface
- Steep slopes with a significant amount of fire burned vegetation remaining

Check with the local Natural Resources Conservation Service office to find out if the use of jute netting is appropriate.

Methods and Materials: The soil surface should be reasonably smooth. Rocks and other obstructions which rise above the level of the soil and mulch must be removed.

Recommended specifications for jute netting are as follows: Jute should be cloth of a uniform plain weave of undyed and unbleached single jute yarn. The netting should **not be wider than 48 inches** (plus or minus an inch). The material should **weigh about 1.2 pounds per linear yard** and have approximately 78 warp ends per width of cloth and 41 weft ends per linear yard. Most nurseries, hardware stores, and lumber yards can help find netting that meets these recommended specifications.

Individual rolls of jute should be applied **up and down the slope - never along the contour**. The upper end of the matting at the top of the disturbed area should be buried in a trench at least **8 inches deep**.

Rolls should be laid out so that edges overlap each other by at least **4 inches across the slope**. When more than one roll is required going down the slope. The ends going down the slope should overlap by at least 3 feet.

This is extremely important!

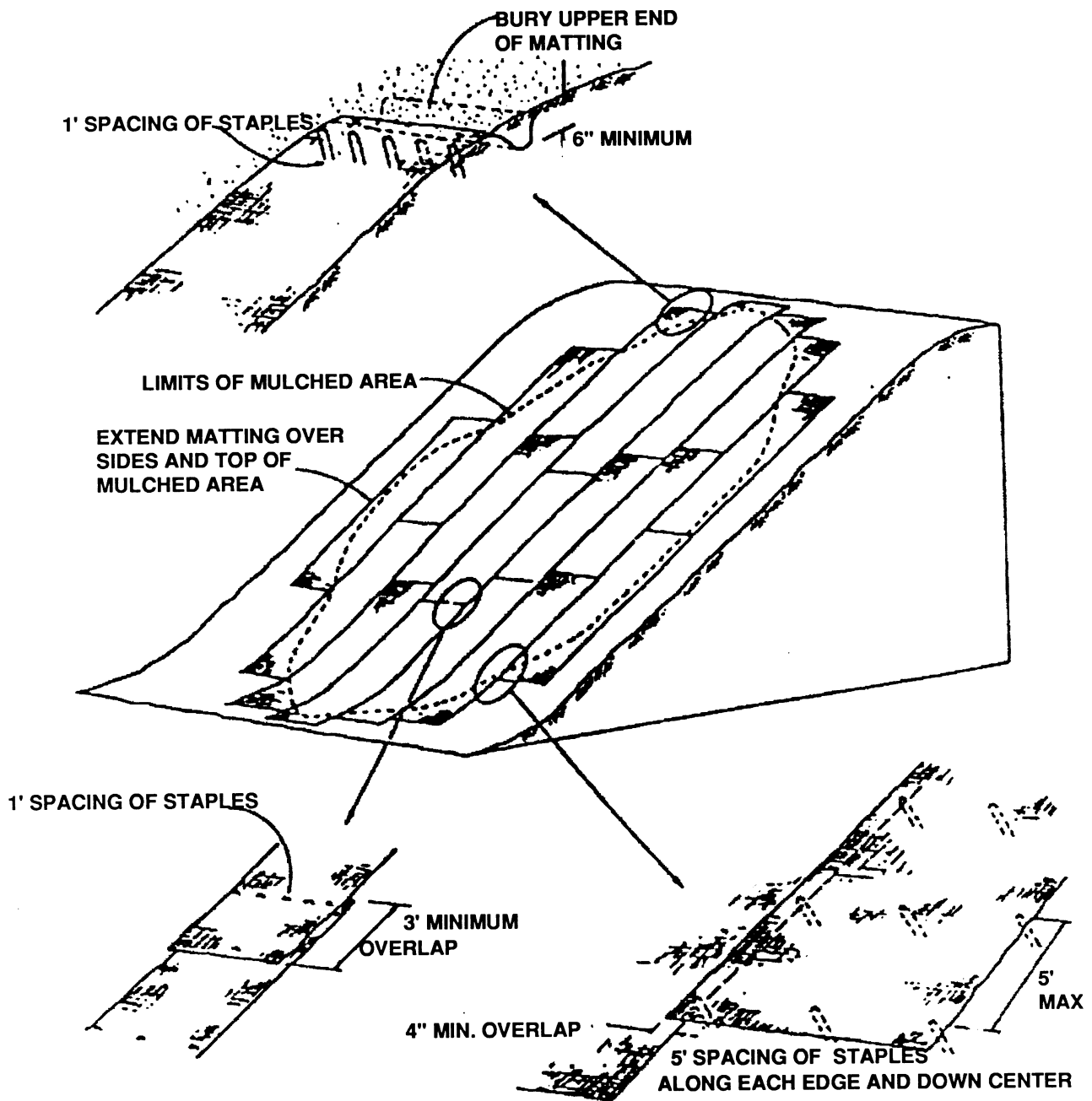
Anchor pins or staples are used to anchor the netting to the soil surface. Anchor pins are made of rigid 0.12 inch diameter or heavier galvanized wire with a **minimum length of 10 inches** for hook or “J” type pins. Staples should be of wire .09 inches in diameter or greater and should have “U” shaped legs that are **at least 6 inches in length**. Longer staples are needed for sandy soils.

Staples or anchor pins need to be driven perpendicularly into the slope face and should be spaced about **5 feet apart down the sides and center of the roll**. Spacing between staples at the upper end of a roll, and at the end overlap of two, rolls should not be greater than 1 foot.

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Jute matting should go beyond the edge of the mulched or seeded area at least **1 foot at the sides** and **3 feet at the bottom**. If there is existing vegetation at the boundaries of the area, the matting should be continued into the stale vegetated area or to the edge of a structure.



For more information about the use of jute netting, mulch, fertilizer, and seed selection and application rates, contact your local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office or Resource Conservation District.